IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims in the subject patent application as follows:

1. (original) A catalyst system which consists essentially of (a) an organolithium compound, (b) a calcium alkoxide and (c) a lithium alkoxide.

2. (original) A catalyst system as specified in claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 1:1 to about 20:1.

3. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of the organolithium compound to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 1:1 to about 6:1.

4. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 2 wherein the calcium alkoxide is selected from the group consisting of calcium dimethoxide, calcium diethoxide, calcium diisopropoxide, calcium di-n-butoxide, calcium di-sec-butoxide, calcium di-t-butoxide, calcium di(1,1-dimethylpropoxide), calcium di(1,2-dimethyl-propoxide), calcium di(1,1-dimethylbutoxide), calcium di(1,1-dimethylpentoxide), calcium di(2-ethyl-hexanoxide), calcium di(1-methylheptoxide), calcium diphenoxide, calcium di(p-methylphenoxide), calcium di(p-octylphenoxide), calcium di(p-nonylphenoxide), calcium di(p-dodecylphenoxide), calcium di(α-naphthoxide), calcium di(ß-naphthoxide), calcium di(o-methoxyphenoxide), calcium di(m-methoxyphenoxide), calcium di(p-methoxy-phenoxide), calcium di(o-ethoxyphenoxide), calcium di(4-methoxy-1-naphthoxide), and calcium di-tetrahydrofurfurylate.

5. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 4 wherein the organolithium compound is an organomonolithium compound.

6. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 5 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 5:2 to about 10:1.

7. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 5 wherein the molar ratio of the organolithium compound to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 3:2 to about 4:1.

8. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 7 wherein the lithium alkoxide is made by reacting an organolithium compound, metallic lithium or lithium hydride with an alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, normal-propyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, t-butanol, sec-butanol, cyclohexanol, octanol, 2-ethylhexanol, p-cresol, m-cresol, nonyl phenol, hexylphenol, tetrahydrofuryl alcohol, furfuryl alcohol, 3-methyltetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, oligomer of tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, ethylene glycol monophenyl ether, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, N,N-dimethylethanolamine, N,N-diethylethanolamine, N,N-dibutylethanolamine, N,N-diphenylethanolamine, N-methyldiethanolamine, N-ethyldiethanolamine, N-butyldiethanolamine, N-phenyldiethanolamine, N,N-dimethylpropanolamine, N,N-dibutylpropanolamine, N-methyldipropanolamine, N-ethyldipropanolamine, 1-(2-hydroxyethyl)pyrrolidine, 2-methyl-1-(2-hydroxyethyl)pyrrolidine, 1-piperidineethanol, 2-phenyl-1-piperidineethanol, 2-ethyl-1-piperidinepropanol, N-β-hydroxyethylmorpholine, 2-ethyl-N-β-hydroxyethylmorpholine, 1-piperazineethanol, 1-piperazinepropanol, N,N'bis(β-hydroxyethyl)piperazine, N,N'-bis(γ-hydroxypropyl)-piperazine, 2-(β-hydroxyethyl)pyridine and 2-(γ-hydroxypropyl)pyridine.

9. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 8 wherein the organolithium compound is selected from the group consisting of ethyl lithium, isopropyl lithium, n-butyllithium, sec-butyllithium, tert-octyl lithium, phenyl lithium, 2-naphthyllithium, 4-butylphenyllithium, 4-tolyllithium, 4-phenylbutyllithium, cyclohexyl lithium and hexyl lithium.

10. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 9 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 3:1 to about 5:1.

11. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 10 wherein the molar ratio of the alkyl lithium compound to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 2:1 to about 3:1.

12. (original) A catalyst system which consists essentially of (a) an organometallic compound of a metal selected from the group consisting of lithium, potassium, magnesium, sodium, aluminum, zinc and tin, (b) a calcium compound and (c) a lithium alkoxide.

13. (currently amended) A catalyst system as specified in claim 12 wherein said calcium compound is selected from the group consisting of calcium carboxylates, calcium phenolates, ~~calcium amines, calcium amides,~~ calcium halides, calcium nitrates, calcium sulfates, calcium phosphates, calcium alkoxides and calcium ditetrahydrofurfurylate.

14. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 13 wherein said organometallic compound is selected from the group consisting of organolithium compounds, organopotassium compounds, organomagnesium compounds and organosodium compound.

15. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 14 wherein the calcium compound is selected from the group consisting of calcium alkoxides, calcium carboxylates and calcium phenolates.

16. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 15 wherein the organometallic compound is an organolithium compound.

17. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 16 wherein the calcium compound is a calcium alkoxide.

18. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 12 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium compound is within the range of about 2:1 to about 20:1; and wherein the molar ratio organometallic compound to the

calcium compound is within the range of about 1:1 to about 6:1.

19. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 12 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium compound is within the range of about 5:2 to about 10:1; and wherein the molar ratio organometallic compound to the calcium compound is within the range of about 3:2 to about 4:1.

20. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 12 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium compound is within the range of about 3:1 to about 5:1; and wherein the molar ratio organometallic compound to the calcium compound is within the range of about 2:1 to about 3:1.

21-28. (Canceled)

29. (previously presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 1 wherein said catalyst system further comprises an amine.